

Middleton Electric Light Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2019

The following individuals were in attendance:

Frank Twiss, Chairman
Chuck Clinch
Jim Kelley
Jim Carbone
Tim Houten
Michael Cloutier, Manager

Chairman Twiss called the meeting to order at 5:07PM.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion:

Jim Kelley motioned to approve the agenda as written. Chuck Clinch seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

Chuck Clinch motioned to approve the November 13, 2019 minutes as written. Jim Kelley seconded motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Financials:

Power Supply:

Tracking well and should continue to do so. We are a full cent less expensive per kwh than 2018 for power purchased. Our overall cost for capacity is coming down. We buy the power from Nextera RISE for about \$7K and sell it for about \$20K. We are looking into some offshore wind projects. We just went out to bid for 5% of our power for 2020. BP was the low bidder at \$.0375 per kwh.

Balance Sheet:

Our accounts are higher. Interest income for October was \$93,403.05. Cash is pretty close to what it was last year. We made a positive net income for October 2019. Corrections were made to accounts 403 and 926 due to incorrect postings. This did not affect our bottom line. We earned just under \$200K with Wells Fargo.

Variance:

We have a net income of \$1,992,669.00 YTD for 2019, compared to \$85,308.00 for 2018. Most of this is from our YTD interest income.

Battery Project Update:

Battery is operational. Mr. Cloutier signed the commercial operational paperwork yesterday. It was charging today. This morning it was at 60% and as the snow melted and the solar got up to 1 megawatt. The battery is currently at 85% but once it is discharged it should return to about 60%. This is the optimum percentage recommended by the manufacturer. The peak should be tomorrow or Friday. The final fees are not determined yet. We are taking the total capital investment that the company has, divided by the 80 quarters for 20 years and this will be our quarterly payment. We saved them money by doing the work and just charging them for materials. Insurance was more than expected. We are still looking at savings per year of \$100K to \$200K. It is anticipated that we will save enough with our monthly peaks with transmission to offset the contracted price.

Manager's Report:

Two trucks are down. The hybrid has a transmission problem and the other a hydraulic leak. The newest bucket truck is doing fine.

Other:

Cheryl has a list of abatements to be written off which need the Commissioners' approval. The list was passed around.

Motion:

Tim Houten motioned to accept the abatement write offs as presented. Jim Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Rail Trail Update:

Mr. Cloutier spoke with Charles Costigan and agreed to have MELD help out. They have a website for further information.

APPA Legislative Rally February 24-26 in Washington DC. Let Mr. Cloutier know if you are interested.

Manager's Review:

Mr. Cloutier presented a list of his accomplishments the past year. It included the following:

- Increase Credit Rating from A to A+, Outlook is stable
- Finalized ROW purchase with reduction price
- Completion of the Battery Project - \$100-200K annual savings projected
- Ongoing expansion of our renewable and non-emitting portfolio
- Initiated an EV program to educate on EV benefits for our ratepayers
- Implemented rebate programs for appliances, water heaters and heat pumps
- Presentation to the Stream Team, highlighting our thoughtful commitment to clean energy
- Maintain high employee morale
- Civilly maintain MELD autonomy
- Good working relationship with other Town departments
- Expanding industry leadership with the assumption of MEAM Presidency in January

MEAM Salary Survey – Exempt Positions as of October 2019

Upcoming Projects:

- Rail trail project
- Complete buildout behind MELD garage
- Meter reading upgrade
- Fiber feasibility
- 5G rollout

Mr. Cloutier is looking for a good bump in salary more than 457 contributions.

Mr. Cloutier is in a five-year contract with a 1% minimum increase yearly.

Board agreed to go into Executive Session next meeting to make a decision on salary negotiation.

Next meeting: January 15, 2020

Mr. Houten made a motion to adjourn at 6:15PM. Mr. Carbone seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James Carbone
Clerk